(iii) Formation of State Level/National Level Rural Bank with amalgamation of 196 RRBs.

(iv) Formation of Negotiating forum for Regional Rural Banks.

(b) Government orders implementing the Award of the National Industrial Tribunal and Equation Committee report had been issued on 22.2.1991. The Payment of arrears to the employees of the RRBs involves an expenditure of around Rs. 225 crores. As RRBs do not have funds of this order, the mechanism for payment of arrears is being worked out by RBI, NABARD and the Government. Some structural changes in the existing organisations of the RRBs may be necessary to make them viable, though the separate indentity of the RRBs will be maintained. The issues that have cropped up in the implementation of the Award have been studied by a Working Group constituted in NABARD. The Working Group has since submitted its report to NABARD who will be soon be advising the Govt, regarding the further action required in the matter.

Smuggling on Indo-Nepal Border of Darjeeling District

2935. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that foreign goods are smuggled through the border areas of Pasupati and Kakaribhitta on the Indo-Nepal border of Darjeeling district; and

(b) if so, what was the value of such goods seized during the last five years in these two places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Available reports indicate that the Indo-Nepal Border including the areas around Pashupati and Panitanki (Kakavita on the Nepal side) of Darjeeling District continue to be sensitive to smuggling. The value of the smuggled goods seized by the Customs authorities in and around these two places during the last five years are given below:

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) Panitanki	(Rs. in lakhs) Pashupati
1987	9.88	1.13
1988	9.76	1.97
1989	24.69	1.87
1990	13.49	2.40
1991	8.36	4.03

Tours undertaken by Officials of Guwahati Stock Exchange

2936. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of tours undertaken by the President, Vice-President, Secretary and other office bearers of the Guwahati Stock Exchange during last five years ending February, 1992, year-wise and each office bearer-wise;

(b) what are the details of amounts by the said exchange on each such tour as in (a) above, each office bearer-wise;

(c) what are the details of purpose/ justification of each such tour;

(d) what are the details of results/ success achieved in each such tour; and

(e) whether the said exchange has fixed any ceiling of expenses on tours by its office-bearers; if so, the details thereof each office bearer-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.